

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 12-14, 22, 23 and 26-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 28 and 30 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 22, 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,186 to Brettell et al. (hereinafter "Brettell"); claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brettell; and claims 3-6, 12-14, 23, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brettell in view of JP-A-6-246777 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 3, 28 and 30, call for a sheet-shaped insert having an upper edge and a lower edge, and the upper edge is below the upper opening of the cylindrical molded body.

Brettell discloses an electro-fusion pipe coupler with an outer shell 1 that is made from extruded plastic pipe. (*see* Brettell col. 5, lines 7-33). The Office Action on page 2 equates Brettell's shell 1 to the sheet-shaped insert of independent claims 1, 3, 28 and 30. However, it is disclosed in Brettell that the shell 1 also constitutes an outer mold part, which delimitates the mould cavity with a mould core. The mould cavity is used to form the layer 3, which the Office Action on page 2 equates to the cylindrical molded body of independent claims 1, 3, 28 and 30. (*see* Brettell col. 6, lines 38-43). Therefore, as noted in Brettell's col. 4, lines 17-21, the layer 3 extends from end-to-end of the shell 1. Thus, Brettell fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the independent claims.

Furthermore, a combination of Brettell with Suzuki to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned feature would not have been obvious or predictable, because Brettell's shell 1 acts

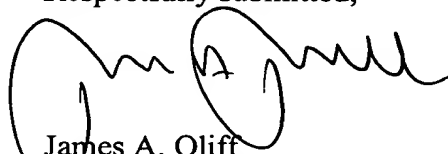
as the outside mould and would not be combinable with Suzuki's molding apparatus, which includes the fixed template 12 as the outside mould.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Rodney H. Rothwell, Jr.
Registration No. 60,728

JAO:RHR/kcp

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 6, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
